

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge summer programs

by Candace Ward

Are you a nature lover interested in Alaskan wildlife and cultural history? Then we invite you and your family to join the Kenai Refuge staff for a variety of summer programs. Popular topics range from moose and bears to birds and Alaska cultural history.

Campfire Programs:

Hidden Lake Campground - Saturdays, May 27 - Sept. 2, 2000, 8:00 p.m. Fridays, June 23 - August 11, 2000, 8:00 p.m.

Upper Skilak Campground - Saturdays, July 1 - July 29, 2000, 8:00 p.m.

Campfire programs last one hour. For Hidden Lake campfire programs, meet at the campfire amphitheater. (If raining at Hidden Lake, meet at the picnic pavilion next to the boat ramp.) For programs at Upper Skilak, meet at the picnic pavilion. Dress for the weather.

Directions: Hidden Lake Campground is located on Skilak Lake Road, 3.6 miles from the east entrance on the Sterling Highway (near Jim's Landing). Upper Skilak Campground is also located on Skilak Lake Road, 8.4 miles from the east entrance.

Discovery Walks:

Burney's Trail, Hidden Lake Campground - Saturdays, June 17 - August 12, 2000 - 1:00 p.m.

Discovery walks last 1 1/2 - 2 hours. Hikers cover 1.5 miles round trip. Wear comfortable hiking shoes, bring rain gear, and carry water. A spectacular view of Hidden and Skilak Lakes awaits you at the end of the hike.

Directions: The trail head is located in Hidden Lake Campground across from site #7, Skyview Loop. Park in the boat ramp parking lot and walk to the trail head. The campground is located, 3.6 miles from the east entrance on the Sterling Highway (near Jim's Landing).

Nature Walks:

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center - Sat. & Sun., 11:00 a.m. - July 1-Aug. 13, 2000

Nature walks last 30 - 45 minutes. Distance covered is 2 mile. Wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing for the weather. Walk ends at the scenic overlook on Headquarters Lake.

Directions: The visitor center is located on Ski Hill Rd., one mile from Soldotna. Turn south off of Funny River Road onto Ski Hill Road at Spenard Building Supply.

Wildlife Films:

From June 3 - August 20, 2000, films featuring Alaskan wildlife are shown at noon, 1, 2, 3, & 4 p.m. daily at the Kenai Refuge Visitor Center in Soldotna. Visitor Center hours beginning June 3 are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday, Sunday & Holidays, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For more information on our summer programs, contact Kenai National Wildlife Refuge at 262-7021. This schedule is posted on our refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/kenai/>.

Candace Ward has worked as park ranger at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge for 15 years specializing in refuge information and education programs.